



HUNTING

U P D A T E

FALL
2005



SENATOR JASON ALLEN

Dear Friend:

Now that the scent of autumn is in the air, it's time to begin planning for a time honored tradition in our state—hunting! Whether you hunt deer, turkey, small game, waterfowl or bear, Michigan has some of the best hunting opportunities available.

As your State Senator, I want to assure you that I will continue to work hard to protect your hunting rights. Inside you will find important information that will be helpful as you prepare for this season, including updates on hunting seasons, licensing, safety tips, useful telephone numbers and more.

As always, your comments and suggestions on ways to preserve Michigan's legendary hunting heritage are most welcome. I wish you a safe and successful season and hope you and your family enjoy all the natural bounty Michigan has to offer.

Sincerely,



Jason Allen
State Senator
37th District

**PLEASE
CONTACT
ME AT:**

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MOURNING DOVE SEASON ON HOLD

After a successful opening season last fall, the 2005 and 2006 mourning dove hunts have been suspended. This abrupt reversal is due to the State Board of Canvassers' June approval of the submitted petition signatures to put a dove hunting referendum before the voters on the November 2006 ballot.

The 2004 hunt, the first in Michigan in nearly 100 years, was rated a good hunting experience. Over 3,000 of the 5,000 hunters who bought a dove stamp took part in the fall hunt, harvesting an average of nine doves. With the 2004 hunt, Michigan joined 40 other states in offering a hunting season on mourning doves. Its future rests with Michigan voters in November 2006.

FIREWOOD: DON'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

When taking your annual hunting trips, leave firewood at home to prevent the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Michigan. The state has prohibited bringing all hardwood firewood into the Upper Peninsula and surrounding states. Further, firewood cannot be removed from the 20-county EAB quarantine areas of southeast Michigan or from the outlying quarantined areas in the Lower Peninsula.

Help protect our natural resources from this destructive pest and buy your firewood locally, burn it all on site or leave it behind as the DNR recommends. Find out more information and locate quarantined areas at www.michigan.gov/eab.



YOUTH HUNTING

There is no better way to pass Michigan's outdoor heritage onto a new generation than by taking a young person hunting. Along with gaining new skills and hands-on experience, the young hunter learns respect for nature and an enduring love of the land. At age 12, a young person can be licensed for small game hunting. At 14, they may accompany an adult legally hunting, dog training, or trapping without a license as long as the youth does not carry a firearm or bow and arrow. Anyone 12 or older is required to have a hunting license when participating in a bear or bobcat hunt with dogs.

Obtain a hunting license for your youngster by accompanying them to a license dealer and simply fill out an application and present a Michigan hunter safety certificate. To find out more information on hunting safety classes, you can contact your nearest DNR Operations Center or go online at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

All young hunters are required to successfully complete a hunter safety course and earn a certificate before being licensed. You can look for these classes at: www.michigandnr.com/hunting/recnsrch.asp.

Remember that when under age 17, a young hunter must be accompanied by an adult over 17! Spending time in the great outdoors takes on a whole new meaning for a young person when spending it with a parent, grandparent or favorite relative.

HUNTING SAFETY

Many non-hunters might be surprised to learn that hunting is one of the safest outdoor activities around. Hunter education and the use of hunter orange have had a big impact on making the sport safer. In fact, the DNR has reported a significant drop in hunter-related injuries and deaths since mandatory hunter safety classes began.

Before you head out into Michigan's great outdoors, remember to hunt safely and keep these basic firearm rules in mind:

- Always have complete control of your weapon.
- Always treat your firearm as if it were loaded.
- Before firing, know your target and what is beyond.
- Be sure the gun is safe to operate and use only the correct ammunition.
- Always unload your weapon before putting it in your vehicle or camp.
- And, **NEVER** mix hunting and alcohol.



Sen. Allen takes time out from a shoot for a photo with fellow hunting enthusiast, Sen. Bruce Patterson.



FREE HUNTING GUIDES AVAILABLE

Visit the DNR online at www.michigan.gov/dnr to access the **2005-2006 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide**. Along with rules and regulations, the Guide contains information on changes in the law, hunting seasons, wildlife diseases, hunting with disabilities and much more. You can also get a printed copy from my office at 1-866-525-5637 or by e-mail at senjallen@senate.michigan.gov. Specialty hunting guides for antlerless deer, fall wild turkey and elk are available online as well.

WELCOME TO E-LICENSE

The Michigan DNR E-License system is designed to allow residents to purchase hunting and fishing licenses, special hunt applications and permits 24 hours a day, 7 days a week within applicable sales dates. You will also be able to print most small game and fishing licenses using your own printer. Kill tags also are available for sale on E-License. Expect them to arrive within 7 business days of your purchase.

SEN. ALLEN VOTES TO UPHOLD HUNTING VALUES

Legislation introduced earlier this year to ban armchair computer hunting is now law. The bills, aimed at the relatively new practice of internet hunting, make it illegal to hunt using a computer to remotely control a firearm or crossbow or to operate such a business in the state.

These hunting operations allow "hunters" the chance to control a video camera and rifle and, with the click of a mouse, fire at game animals. This type of activity violates every standard of hunting and reduces it to the level of a trivial video game. I voted in support of the legislation to maintain the integrity of Michigan's rich hunting heritage. If you would like more information on this legislative package, now Public Acts 110-112 of 2005, please contact my office toll-free at 1-866-525-5637 or by e-mail at senjallen@senate.michigan.gov.



State Senator
JASON ALLEN

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2005-2006 MICHIGAN HUNTING SEASONS

CLIP & SAVE

SPECIES	SEASON DATES						
	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.
COTTONTAIL RABBIT & VARYING HARE	SEPT. 15 - MAR. 31						
DEER:							
SPECIAL DISABLED FIREARM HUNT		OCT. 15 - 16					
ARCHERY		OCT. 1 - NOV. 14		DEC. 1 - JAN. 1			
REGULAR FIREARM			NOV. 15 - 30				
MUZZLELOADING				DEC. 2 - 11 (ZONE 1) DEC. 9 - 18 (ZONE 2) DEC. 2 - 18 (ZONE 3)			
PHEASANT (MALE)		OCT. 10 - 31 (RESTRICTED AREA, ZONE 1) OCT. 20 - NOV. 14 (ZONES 2, 3) DEC. 1 - JAN. 1 (RESTRICTED AREA, ZONE 3)					
QUAIL		OCT. 20 - NOV. 14 (RESTRICTED AREA)					
RUFFED GROUSE	SEPT. 15 - NOV. 14			DEC. 1 - JAN. 1			
SQUIRREL	SEPT. 15 - MAR. 1						
FALL WILD TURKEY		OCT. 3 - NOV. 14 (SEE 2005 FALL WILD TURKEY GUIDE)					
WOODCOCK	SEPT. 24 - NOV. 7						

DNR TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Wildlife Bureau
517-373-1263
Fisheries
517-373-1280
Parks & Recreation
517-373-9900
Forest Management
517-373-1275
Law Enforcement
517-373-1230
Report All Poaching
800-292-7800

NOTE: Consult the official 2005-2006 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for the full hunting schedule and to determine hunting zones, bag limits and special restrictions at www.michigan.gov/dnr.